

Final Programmatic Report Narrative

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed ten (10) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the online final programmatic report task as instructed. **Please note** that this narrative will be made available on NFWF's Grants Library and therefore should provide brief context for the need of your project and should not contain unexplained terms or acronyms.

1. Summary of Accomplishments

In four to five sentences, provide a brief summary of the project's key accomplishments and outcomes that were observed or measured. This can be duplicative to the summary provided in the reporting 'field' or you can provide more detail here.

Building upon previous peer-to-peer capacity building workshops by GCFI and supported by NOAA CRCP for priority Caribbean marine protected areas (MPAs), this project helped to address desired site-level follow-up training in MPA law enforcement for Belize and Mexico, enabled program design for replication of Makai Watch experience from Hawaii to The Bahamas, helped unlock sustainable financing for the Turks & Caicos Islands, and supported innovation in MPA management planning for Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Networking of Caribbean MPAs was achieved through regular correspondence with 27 MPAs on news and follow-up activities and through follow-up webinars on sustainable financing and law enforcement.

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

- Describe the primary activities conducted during this grant and explain any discrepancies between the activities conducted from those that were proposed.

Project activities were based on needs identified by participating MPA Managers in the CaMPAM MPA Management Capacity Assessment and were drawn from participant input received at the peer-to-peer workshops about the follow-up activities that were desired by participants for ongoing capacity building. The activities funded through this grant were:

i. On-site MPA enforcement training at Half Moon Caye Natural Monument for Belizean and Mexican participants

Belize Audubon Society (BAS) manages priority sites Half Moon Caye and Blue Hole Natural Monuments. Following P2P II, the Marine Manager (S. Young) expressed his desire for on-site enforcement training for rangers and field officers as a follow-up activity. CONANP staff from neighboring Parque Nacional de Arrecifes de Xcalak (J. Gomez Poot) echoed this and since they share similar challenges in enforcement they identified an opportunity to come together for joint enforcement training. There were 28 participants and trainers, including nine participants from Belize Audubon Society, 10 from Fisheries Department, two from Coast Guard, one from Port Honduras Marine Reserve and five from Parque Nacional de Arrecifes de Xcalak. Participant evaluation indicated a strongly positive reaction to the training. This training was partly supported via a NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) grant to GCFI and partly via NFWF funding to GCFI for participation by BAS and CONANP. Local co-funding helped to make possible the participation of Belize Fisheries Department and TIDE. The workshop report with training agenda and photos is attached as Appendix 1.

ii. Sharing Strategies from the Pacific Ocean to Build Marine Protected Area Compliance in The Bahamas The Bahamas National Trust

Following an introduction to Makai Watch at P2P II, The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) was among the most motivated of MPA managers to build community involvement in MPA enforcement. Potential for this was also flagged in the Caribbean MPA Management Capacity Assessment. The Bahamas is one of few locations in the Caribbean whose legislation confers powers of enforcement on volunteers appointed by BNT. The organization has been exploring approaches to co-management of protected areas, and they identified a need to determine the most feasible level of community involvement in MPA enforcement in The Bahamas and to agree on how BNT's existing wardens will work

with volunteers from the community. GCFI developed and coordinated a detailed program for a visit to learn from Hawaii's Makai Watch program (attached as Appendix 2). Two representatives from The Bahamas National Trust together with two representatives from the Abaco Association for Flying Fishing Guides took part in a series of meetings with the coordinators and volunteers who run Makai Watch programs in Hawaii, as well as with the fisheries management authority (Division of Aquatic Resources) and with the local natural resources law enforcement agency (Department of Conservation and Resources Enforcement). The visiting group also participated in a volunteer training session hosted by the Ka'anapali Makai Watch group on Maui and joined the local Makai Watch group on patrol in Maui. The visit helped BNT learn how to train community members, the needs for ongoing coordination of community enforcement efforts, and on how to evaluate performance of the program. Co-funding for travel by two of the participants was provided by TNC.

iii. Unlocking Sustainable Financing for MPAs in the Turks & Caicos Islands

In the MPA Management Capacity Assessment, Caribbean MPA managers across the region identified the top priority management capacity building need as the development and implementation of sustainable finance strategies for their MPAs. P2P I in 2011 was a direct response to this, and the head of the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (now Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs, DEMA) from the Turks & Caicos Islands was one of the participants. DEMA and the Turks & Caicos Reef Fund participated in GCFI's webinar on sustainable financing in 2015 (funded through the GCFI-NOAA CRCP partnership on Caribbean MPA capacity building). Following this, DEMA expressed their need for assistance on sustainable financing mechanisms, especially given the dissolution of the Turks & Caicos Conservation Fund in the intervening period since P2P I. This project made it possible for a financing expert from Wolfs Company in Bonaire to work with DEMA, with other agencies in the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Heritage and Culture, with other marine protected area managers and with stakeholders from the tourism sector in order to first understand the existing and potential funding streams and the processes for allocation of funds to MPA management. This included a series of face-to-face meetings with key representatives of government and stakeholder groups, working sessions with DEMA staff, participation in a meeting with tour operators and a half-day workshop with key stakeholders. The report from Wolfs Company is attached as Appendix 3.

iv. MPA Management Planning

This activity builds on NOAA CRCP and TNC support for the review and updating of management plans (P2P III) for Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area in Grenada and Tobago Cays Marine Park in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. During the management planning review process, MPA managers and the MPA boards indicated that they would welcome updated formatting for the revised management plans and user-friendly summaries or highlight materials as pull-outs. Working review documents are shown in Appendices 4-5. Findings from coral reef and MPA monitoring for the Grenadines Network of MPAs (also supported by NFWF) were incorporated into this work. GCFI and TNC continue to work with graphic design/GIS expertise to develop innovative outputs for the two participating MPAs.

v. Networking

This project included regular correspondence by GCFI with the group of 27 MPAs that participated in the MPA Management Capacity Assessment. This included sharing of news and information on follow-up activities. Networking also took place through interactions between MPA staff involved in the project activities already mentioned.

Outcomes

- Describe progress towards achieving the project outcomes as proposed, and briefly explain any discrepancies between your results compared to what was anticipated.
- Provide any further information (such as unexpected outcomes) important for understanding project activities and outcome results.

The activities implemented through this grant achieved real conservation action at site level for the participating MPAs. In particular, the following outcomes were achieved from each activity:

i. On-site MPA enforcement training at Half Moon Caye Natural Monument for Belizean and Mexican participants

Enforcement training had the significant outcome for Belize Audubon Society of achieving the deputization of their marine protected area rangers as Fisheries Officers, with full powers to enforce fisheries laws and regulations in Belize. The training also resulted in Belize Audubon Society investing in new uniforms for their rangers which has contributed to enforcement effectiveness. As a result of joint training with Fisheries Department and other MPAs, there have been improved partnerships for MPA enforcement and enhanced networking among MPAs with similar goals and challenges.

For CONANP staff at Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak, the training helped to build more strategic enforcement with the Mexican Navy, who are key partners in MPA enforcement.

ii. Sharing Strategies from the Pacific Ocean to Build Marine Protected Area Compliance in The Bahamas The Bahamas National Trust

The visit to Hawaii successfully exposed Bahamian participants to community-based, co-management and government approaches to resource management and conservation practices in Hawai'i. They learned how Makai Watch operates in Hawai'i and the challenges, successes and lessons learned in engaging, mobilizing and training communities. This gave them an understanding of the policies and procedures used to manage the Makai Watch program, including the staff capacity required of the MPA authority in order to support the program. This enabled the Bahamian participants to learn from Makai Watch experience and to input lessons learned to the planning of action steps for involving community members in MPA management, including enforcement, with The Bahamas National Trust. The summary of lessons learned and next steps is attached as Appendix 6. The activity also helped share MPA management experience between the Pacific and the Caribbean, representing a significant milestone in MPA networking for the two regions.

iii. Unlocking Sustainable Financing for MPAs in the Turks & Caicos Islands

The exploration of sustainable financing for MPAs in the Turks & Caicos Islands highlighted a need to optimize existing funding streams and recommended possible approaches for next steps. The project also highlighted critical gaps such as the lack of a business plan for MPA management. GCFI is assisting with possible support for implementation of indicated next steps..

iv. MPA Management Planning

By developing innovative outputs, this project helped the participating MPAs to keep the revised plans and strategic priorities top of mind for MPA staff, board members and stakeholders. This outcome represents significant value adding on top of the revision of the existing management plans, which in the past would otherwise have been relegated to a shelf in the office.

v. Networking

Networking of Caribbean MPAs was a positive outcome of this project, especially between Belize and Mexico, between Hawaii and The Bahamas, and between Bonaire and the Turks & Caicos Islands. GCFI also continued networking between the 27 priority MPAs with relevant expertise and other MPAs in support of sharing of best practices.

Table 1 shows the tiered ranking of capacity reported by MPA managers for topics addressed through this project, indicating progress in building MPA management capacity for effective implementation of MPAs in the Caribbean region.

Table 1: Tiered ranking of MPA management capacity by MPA Managers

MPA	Enforcement		Sustainable Financing		Management Planning	
	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014
Half Moon Caye and Blue Hole Natural Monuments	2	3	-	-	-	-
Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak	2	3	-	-	-	-
Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park	2	2+	-	-	-	-
Columbus Landfall National Park	-	-	2	2+	-	-
Princess Alexandra Land and Sea National Park	-	-	2	2+	-	-
West Caicos Marine National Park	-	-	2	2+	-	-
Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area	-	-	-	-	2	2+
Tobago Cays Marine Park	-	-	-	-	3*	3

*TCMP from 2011 MPA Management Capacity Assessment: "There is a need to review the monitoring and evaluation information collected since 2007 and update and adapt the plan to accurately reflect the current status of the site and necessary management actions needed to achieve site objectives."

3. Lessons Learned

Describe the key lessons learned from this project, such as the least and most effective conservation practices or notable aspects of the project's methods, monitoring, or results. How could other conservation organizations adapt similar strategies to build upon some of these key lessons about what worked best and what did not?

- At the closure of the earlier peer-to-peer workshops and at each major project activity we took time with participants to discuss and record any desired follow-up activities. This enabled us to capture input on the topic at hand while it was still top of mind and participants could focus on most suitable and feasible approaches to follow-up. The lesson learned is that this is highly beneficial in enabling targeted follow-up when resources ultimately permit this. We recommend that all facilitators of such capacity building and peer-to-peer sharing exercises strive to capture desired follow-up input before bringing their activities to closure.
- The project indicates the value of strategic capacity building. We have learned that there is a cumulative impact from NFWF funding that builds on earlier CRCP-funded activities, especially where follow-up is specifically designed to address gaps identified in the MPA Management Capacity Assessment.
- However, we are also learning that information in the capacity assessment in some cases is becoming outdated, and there is a need to respond to this in our follow-up activities. For example, in the Turks & Caicos Islands changes in territorial governance since 2011 have had a significant impact on MPA management and financing became a high priority need that was expressed to us through on-going networking. A review of the capacity assessment may be timely.

4. Dissemination

Briefly identify any dissemination of project results and/or lessons learned to external audiences, such as the public or other conservation organizations. Specifically outline any management uptake and/or actions resulting from the project and describe the direct impacts of any capacity building activities.

Press notes were prepared for Belize enforcement training and the Hawaii-The Bahamas Makai Watch visit. These are attached as Appendices 7-8. PR was distributed through MPA practitioner channels and multiple email lists such as GCFI-Net, CaMPAM-L, Open Channels, and NOAA in Caribbean Newsletter, as well as being shared on GCFI's social media (Facebook and Twitter) and on partner websites and newsletters.

The following management uptake is noted:

- Belize enforcement training – this resulted in BAS rangers being deputized as fisheries officers, with greater powers for MPA enforcement than they would otherwise have had. This represents a milestone for BAS. In conjunction with this, BAS invested in new uniforms for their MPA rangers based directly on the recommendations of MPA Enforcement International through the project.
- Hawaii-The Bahamas Makai Watch visit – at the end of the visit, GCFI and BNT worked in depth to summarize lessons learned and to prepare a framework for replication of Makai Watch in The Bahamas. This could be applied to other MPAs also seeking to replicate the Makai Watch experience.
- Mexico – targeted MPA enforcement training has resulted in more strategic enforcement activities with the Navy.
- Financing – DEMA and relevant agencies in the Turks & Caicos Islands now understand the necessary steps in working towards sustainable financing and are requesting assistance via GCFI or other donors for tailored business planning follow-up and efforts to ensure that conservation funds reach MPA managers.
- Management planning – SusGren will share the outputs from the management planning assistance at the 2016 Grenadines MPA Network meeting, with potential for this to be scaled up from two to all six participating MPAs.

5. Project Documents

Include in your final programmatic report, via the Uploads section of this task, the following:

- 2-10 representative photos from the project. Photos need to have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. For each uploaded photo, provide a photo credit and brief description below;
- Report publications, Power Point (or other) presentations, GIS data, brochures, videos, outreach tools, press releases, media coverage;
- Any project deliverables per the terms of your grant agreement.

Photo: BAS ranger uniforms S Young.pdf (nb. uploaded as 'other document')

Photo: Mexican participants in enforcement training J Horadam.pdf (nb. uploaded as 'other document')

Photo: Agency meeting Honolulu for Bahamas team E Doyle.jpg

Photo: Visit to Hanauma Bay for Bahamas team M Lameier.jpg

Photo: Maui closing session for Bahamas team E Doyle.jpg

Photo: Sustainable financing consultation with TCNT E Doyle.jpg

Photo: Consultation TCMP infographics for management planning A Hoffman.jpg

POSTING OF FINAL REPORT: *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contains material that does not have to be posted on such websites because it is protected from disclosure by statutory or regulatory provisions, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as “PROTECTED” and provide an explanation and complete citation to the statutory or regulatory source for such protection.*